

Watch City Council, Planning Commission Meetings on Your Computer

Missed the latest City Council or Planning Commission meeting? Don't have cable TV? If you have a computer and the Internet, you're in luck.

The City of Fremont has added a new streaming video feature to our website providing easier access to City Council and Planning Commission meetings. Live meetings can be viewed by logging onto:

1. www.fremont.gov/CityHall/CityCouncilWebcasts (City Council) the first, second, and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. (Please note Work Sessions are held on the third Tuesday of each month and times vary.)
2. www.fremont.gov/CityHall/PlanningCommissionWebcasts (Planning Commission) the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Past meetings are also available to view online anytime day or night at the above web addresses. You will need a web browser and Windows Media Player, which can be downloaded for free at the City of Fremont website. Computer speakers are necessary to listen to meetings.

Through the City's Information Systems division, the process of implementing streaming video has been low cost, involving free software, a low-cost video capture card, and an inexpensive personal computer. Fremont residents now have 24/7 access to City Council and Planning Commission meetings for a small investment.

For those who do not have access to the Internet, the City of Fremont and the Fremont Main Library will continue to offer a video (VHS tape) of past meetings. For more information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 284-4060 or the Fremont Main Library at 745-1400.

Fremont's New City Manager



Fred Diaz, City Manager.

The Fremont City Council is pleased to welcome Fred Diaz as Fremont's new City Manager. He was unanimously selected to succeed Jan Perkins, who retired in July 2004. Fred is the current City Manager of Tracy, California, and will officially start with the City of Fremont on Monday, October 11, 2004. He and his family will move to Fremont.

Police Department Installs Online Report System

In an effort to streamline the reporting process and provide more efficient service to Fremont residents, the Police Department recently installed an online report system. This system allows the public to use the Internet to report lost property, theft, vehicle burglary, harassing phone calls, vandalism, and hit and run accidents.



The system can be accessed by using the "File A Report" link on the Police Department's website at www.fremontpolice.org.

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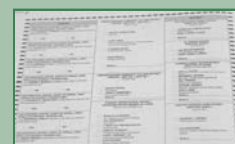
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City Manager's Message



The City of Fremont has seen big changes since you received the Summer issue of *City News*. Jan Perkins, who served as Fremont's City Manager, retired after twelve years in Fremont. On September 1, the Fremont City Council appointed our new City Manager, Fred Diaz, who joins Fremont after being the City of Tracy's City Manager for the past ten years.

Fred was unanimously chosen by the City Council after a nationwide search for the best candidate. His work in Tracy produced great results in economic development and quality of life issues for Tracy's residents. Population nearly doubled during his ten years in Tracy and he oversaw the development of many exciting retail projects. The City Council is confident that Fred will provide the leadership Fremont needs in the challenging years ahead. Fred will officially start as the City Manager on October 11. Once he is here, a formal welcome reception will be held to introduce him to the community.

Many important projects continue here in Fremont. For example, we are excited to see the opening of some of the first new retail stores out at Pacific Commons west of I-880 in early October and look forward to many more in the coming months.

It has been an honor to serve as the City's interim City Manager during this time of transition for the City. Building a great community for people to live and work in is fundamental to Fremont's success. City staff, commissioners, and volunteers look forward to our continuing work with you to make Fremont the best community in the Bay Area.


Dave Millican
City Manager

Personal Emergency Preparedness

Are you ready for a disaster? Join your friends and neighbors for a FREE class on how to prepare:

Thursday, October 14, 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
City Hall, 3300 Capitol Avenue, Bldg. A

Call the Fire Department at 494-4243 to register.

Did You Know...?

Online Report System, from Page 1

The online system should only be used for non-emergency incidents occurring within the city limits of Fremont, with no known suspect, such as a stolen bicycle.

All reports filed online will be reviewed by the Police Department. If further investigation of an online report is needed, you will be contacted by a police officer. Complete instructions are available on the online reporting site. For assistance or additional information, please contact the Police Department at 790-6800.

City's Business Newsletter Wins Top Honors

The City of Fremont received the 2nd place Silver Circle Savvy Award from the City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA) for its eBiz Newsletter, an electronic publication that provides information to the City's business community. Occurring in September, the Savvy Competition, for which the award is named, was designed to recognize local governments and agencies committed to improving government/citizen relationships through enhanced marketing and communications.

Sign up today for the City's award-winning eBiz Newsletter and learn about:

- What's happening with retail development in Fremont.
- Redevelopment Project Area updates.
- Information on Fremont's technology and biotech sectors.
- A variety of resources available to help businesses grow.

Visit the City's website to subscribe:
www.fremont.gov/Business/ENewsletter.

New Community Guide Available



Obtain a free copy of the 2004-2005 Community Guide, produced by the Fremont Chamber of Commerce and City of Fremont. The guide includes information about Fremont's history, lifestyle,

economy, technology, quality of life, schools, healthcare, housing, transportation, events and attractions, and a dining guide. Contact the City's Office of Economic Development at econdev@ci.fremont.ca.us or 284-4020 for your free copy.

City of Fremont

The City Council meets the first, second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 3300 Capitol Avenue. (Work sessions are held on the third Tuesday of each month, times vary.) Meetings are broadcast over Cable TV Channel 27.

City Council

Gus Morrison, Mayor
Steve Cho, Vice Mayor
Bob Wasserman, Bill Pease, Dominic Dutra

City Manager

Dave Millican

Fremont City News

Cheryl Golden, Managing Editor
Fremont City News is printed on recycled paper with soy inks.

City Address, Phone Number, and Website

3300 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 5006, Fremont CA 94537 ~ (510) 284-4000 ~ www.fremont.gov

City Hall News

Grade Separation Project Update

Overpass, Underpass Construction Plans in Irvington



Artist's renderings of the Washington Boulevard overpass (left) and Paseo Padre Parkway underpass (right).

The Washington Boulevard/Paseo Padre Parkway Grade Separation Project has been a long planned goal of the City of Fremont.

The Grade Separation Project actually consists of two major construction efforts:

1. Building a new overpass along Washington Boulevard.
2. Building a new underpass along Paseo Padre Parkway.

The overpass along Washington Boulevard will allow BART to travel underneath the roadway as the tracks are extended from Downtown Fremont to the new Warm Springs BART station. The new Paseo Padre Parkway underpass accomplishes the same objective but calls for the roadway to travel underneath the new BART tracks. In addition, the existing Union Pacific Railroad tracks will be relocated through this area to run parallel to the BART tracks.

Although the project is estimated to cost in excess of \$70 million, the City's General Fund will not provide any financial support to this project. Instead, the project will receive approximately half its funding from State and Regional sources such as gas tax, bridge tolls and County sales tax funds, and the other half from Redevelopment funds and Traffic Impact Fees. The Project is critical to improving local traffic flow and safety, and allowing BART and the railroad to operate without conflicting with vehicular traffic. According to the current schedule, the City anticipates a separate demolition contract to remove some of the buildings along Washington Boulevard will be placed out for bid in late 2004; the demolition contract will take place in advance of the main overpass/underpass construction contract.

A community outreach program for the construction phase of the Project is also currently being developed. For the latest updates, please visit the City's website at www.fremont.gov/Construction/IrvingtonConstruction/WashingtonGradeSeparation.

Redevelopment Agency's Major Projects for Next Year

On June 1, the Fremont City Council adopted the Redevelopment Agency Annual Budget and Work Program for Fiscal Year July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005. This budgetary program was developed with extensive community engagement and includes \$17.2 million allocated for affordable housing expenditures and \$34 million for non-housing capital projects.

The Redevelopment Agency's budget for the next year consists of major investments in regional and local transportation, significant improvements in the historic districts of Centerville, Irvington, and Niles, and continued commitment to affordable housing. By State law, Redevelopment dollars (other than for housing) must be spent on projects within Fremont's three redevelopment areas: Centerville, Irvington, and Niles. In addition, these funds may not be used to pay for programs and services, such as public safety or maintenance.

Firefighter, Canine Partner Receive Award

Each year the National Football League (NFL) recognizes outstanding volunteers and grants awards to the charitable organizations they serve. This year, Fremont firefighter Jeff Place and canine partner Zack received the 2004 Oakland Raiders NFL Community Quarterback Award for their work with the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation (SDF).

According to Jeff, the duo's most demanding and frightening experience was the search operation following the tragedy of 9/11. Jeff recalls, "The rubble was twenty stories high. Zack would climb to a spot, stick his head in, and look down on a four or five story drop. You realized you could lose your dog just like that, and your own life right behind him."

An Oakland Raiders representative said SDF's nomination stood out from all the rest of the worthy organizations and volunteers. SDF received an award check in the amount of \$2,500 from the NFL in support of their mission.



Jeff Place (left) and Zack (right) assist with search efforts at the World Trade Center after 9/11.

Our Community

Tired of the Long Commute?

Consider Working in Fremont

Imagine living *and* working in Fremont! Our community is home to over 1,200 high-tech and biotech firms, and a growing number of retail stores and restaurants. If you have not already done so, why not explore the opportunity to improve your quality of life by working right here in Fremont?

Visit the websites of individual local businesses for job listings or check out any of the following government agencies for free employment assistance:

www.eastbayworks.org (sponsored by East Bay Works, a joint venture of public entities, non-profit agencies, and private organizations in Alameda and Contra Costa counties helping businesses and job seekers meet their employment needs)

www.abag.ca.gov (sponsored by the Association of Bay Area Governments)

www.edd.ca.gov/eddjs.htm (sponsored by the Employment Development Department of the State of California)

www.pronet-fremont.org (sponsored by ProNet, the Fremont chapter of Experience Unlimited, a job service of the State's Employment Development Department)

www.caljobs.ca.gov (sponsored by the State of California)

www.jobsearch.org/CA (sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor)

www.firstgov.gov (sponsored by the U.S. Federal Government)

Take a look today and discover why Fremont is a great place to live *and* work!



Travel Escort Program Assists People in Need

Program Seeks Volunteers

Often times, seniors and persons with disabilities have a difficult time getting groceries, attending critical doctor's appointments, or running important errands. The Travel Escort Program, a new joint program of the cities of Fremont, Union City and Newark, will hopefully help those in need.

Volunteers will accompany users of city paratransit services and assist them by pushing wheelchairs, providing a steadying arm, helping with shopping, and carrying packages. The cities are working with LIFE ElderCare, a local non-profit organization, to recruit and train volunteers and match them with paratransit riders. Funding for the project comes from Alameda County Measure B, the transportation sales tax measure passed in 2000.



If you would like to help a senior or disabled person and have two or three hours a week to volunteer, or if you ride City paratransit and could use a volunteer escort, please contact LIFE ElderCare's Liz Jardin at 574-2073.

Citizens Make a Difference in Fremont

Calling all volunteers! Take part in this year's Make a Difference Day on **Saturday, October 23**. This is the third year the Human Relations Commission will sponsor the event as a way to bring people of all backgrounds together to make a difference in the community.

Last year there were twenty-six projects in Fremont and nearly 600 volunteers. Some of the projects involved:

- Painting, cleaning, and yard work at local homeless and domestic violence shelters.
- Gardening, painting, and restocking emergency supplies at local schools.
- Tree planting and trail improvements in City parks.
- Yard work for frail seniors.
- Collections of food, winter coats, toys, Halloween costumes, and books for those who need them.



Before



After

Last year, volunteers painted and decorated a room at a local domestic violence shelter.

Sign up for This Year's Make a Difference Day

To participate in Make a Difference Day, or to register a project you want assistance with, visit the program's website at www.makeadifferenceday.com. For general questions, email fremontdiffday@hotmail.com or call the Make a Difference Day hotline at 574-2099.

Neighborhoods

Thought You Couldn't Buy a Home, Think Again

City Program Assists First Time Homebuyers



With interest rates rising, it's still not too late to purchase a home. Learn about two City supported housing programs:

1. Receive assistance from the City of Fremont (Redevelopment Agency) and the California Housing and Finance Agency

through a partnership that assists first time homebuyers with deferred loans of up to \$80,000. (Deferred loans have no monthly payments and are not due until you sell or transfer the home.) Loans can be used for down payment assistance and other costs associated with buying a home. Please note these Redevelopment funds are restricted by law and cannot be used for public safety and/or maintenance purposes.

2. The Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, passed in November 2002 by the City Council, requires developers to offer 15% of their homes for sale at below market prices.

To become eligible to purchase a below market-rate home, or to borrow a deferred loan, please attend one of the mandatory First Time Homebuyer Program workshops sponsored by the City of Fremont. For more information about these programs or eligibility, visit the City's website at www.fremont.gov/Community/Housing/AffordableOwnership.

REDEVELOPMENT ROUND-UP

Centerville:

An update on the Centerville Marketplace development proposal will be available in the Winter *City News* issue mailed in December.

Irvington:

City staff is working with members of the Irvington community on the Irvington Concept Plan, which will formulate the community's vision for Irvington development for the next twenty years. In addition, implementation of the new streetscape vision (in the form of sidewalk improvements) for Bay Street is moving forward, which will create a friendlier pedestrian environment. A private developer and non-profit housing developer have also proposed new housing to be located on the existing Tri-City Patio World site on Grimmer Boulevard. This development will offer a mix of affordable 1 to 3-bedroom apartment homes and market-rate townhomes for sale. For more information on these projects, please contact Special Assistant Eva Terrazas at eterrazas@ci.fremont.ca.us or 494-4502.

Niles:

Redevelopment Agency staff is continuing its work on the environmental clean-up plan for the 5.25-acre former Union Pacific (UP) property, located on the north side of Niles Boulevard. Concurrently, the Agency is also moving ahead with the master planning of the former UP property, the design of which focuses on a town square situated between H and I streets. Community meetings for the town square project will be conducted over the next few months. In addition to the redevelopment efforts with the former UP property, the Redevelopment Agency is working with Niles business owners to stimulate the economic vitality of the area by amending the development and parking regulations for the Niles commercial district. For more information on these projects, or other Niles area redevelopment activities, please contact Redevelopment Project Manager Luke Connolly at lconnolly@ci.fremont.ca.us or 494-4513.

Helping Small Business in a Big Way

The City's Office of Housing and Redevelopment launched two business assistance programs on July 1: the Façade Improvement Grant Program and the Commercial Rehabilitation Loan Program. Both are funded through Redevelopment Agency funds which are restricted by State law as to their use and purpose. For example, these funds cannot be used for public safety and/or maintenance purposes.

The **Façade Improvement Grant Program** offers qualifying businesses grants of up to \$16,000, which can be used for new signage, awnings, landscaping and various other exterior improvements. Participants are required to contribute a 20% match of the total grant, and can use the grant for architectural design services, construction management and permit fee assistance. For more information, please contact Special Assistant Eva Terrazas at eterrazas@ci.fremont.ca.us or 494-4502.

The **Commercial Rehabilitation Loan Program** offers loans up to \$320,000 for a 15-year term at 0% interest. Loan proceeds may be used for renovation of building exterior and interior, landscaping and lighting, bringing the structure into the compliance with building codes, loan preparation and permit fees. Program applicants can also obtain architectural design services, construction management and permit fee assistance. For more information, contact Business Manager Irene Klebanivska at iklebanivska@ci.fremont.ca.us or 494-4510.



e n v i r o n m e n t

Food Scrap “Tidbits”

Welcome to “Tidbits,” a section for residents who have questions about Fremont’s food scrap program and are looking for answers. Let this section help you make the most of this service.

Tidbit #1

Q. What do I do with all of the Thanksgiving leftovers that are not eaten and how do I dispose of grease from frying my turkey?

A. If you are a resident with BFI curbside yardwaste collection, Thanksgiving leftovers (with the exception of cooking oil and grease), can be placed in your green organics cart. That includes turkey meat and bones, vegetables, even dairy and desserts. We suggest placing these foodscrap directly in your cart with or without yardwaste using newspaper or a brown paper bag to wrap the foodscrap. You can also freeze or refrigerate the food scraps until collection day. Please **DO NOT** use plastic bags with foodscrap because the plastics cannot be composted and will contaminate the compost product.

For your cooking oil and grease, rather than pouring it into your sink at home where it can clog the sanitary sewer lines, please bring it to BFI in a sealed container for disposal. All Fremont residents may drop off used cooking oil and grease for free at BFI’s Customer Service Center at 42600 Boyce Road (between Stevenson Boulevard and Auto Mall Parkway), Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tidbit #2

Q. How do I use the kitchen pail?

A. The kitchen pail is provided for convenient collection of food scraps and some food-soiled paper in your kitchen. To help keep the pail clean, it can be lined with a paper bag or newspaper. Both the food scraps and paper liner can be emptied into your green cart as needed. Please **do not** place plastic bags in your green cart.



For questions about the foodscrap or grease program, call BFI at 657-3500 or visit the City’s website at www.fremont.gov/Environment.

Apartment Recycling Made Easier, More Convenient



In cooperation with BFI, City staff has been distributing individual recycling containers free of charge to participating multi-family complexes. The containers, which include 6-gallon baskets or tote bags, can be used to store recyclable material and carry them to the centralized recycling carts at each apartment or condominium complex.

The City’s goal is to increase recycling among renters and condominium owners from current participation levels, which are significantly lower than those of single-family homes. Since 2001, Fremont has taken extra steps to expand recycling services to apartments and condominiums. Recycling posters and instructions are distributed along with the new containers to encourage participation. Grants from the Alameda County Waste Management Authority and the California Department of Conservation are helping the City pay for the individual recycling containers and new brochures.

City staff conducted a pilot program in 57 apartment complexes before expanding the new services citywide. Results of the pilot program indicated that providing individual recycling containers almost doubled recycling participation (and volume) in apartment buildings. Managers and residents agreed the pilot program was very successful and recommended the City offer the service to other properties.

To date, 118 multi-family complexes (representing 13,200 units) were offered this new program, and about 60% of the managers and homeowner associations have agreed to participate. Staff from the City and BFI will contact the remaining complexes over the next year.



Free Drop Off for Fluorescent Tubes, Household Batteries

Fremont residents can now drop off fluorescent light tubes (including the cular ones found in light fixtures) and household batteries at the E-Cycling Center for free. The E-Cycling Center is located at BFI’s Customer Service Center, 42600 Boyce Road. must bring an I.D. for proof of residency. Call at 657-3500 for details.



Photoby/BFI

t a l s e r v i c e s

Stivers Lagoon Field Trips



Photo by Math Science Nucleus

During the last school year more than 1,400 students, teachers and parents from 56 Fremont classrooms strolled through Stivers Lagoon, a unique urban marsh located within Central Park. Participants learned how water pollution affects our local waterways and tips to keep our creeks and the Bay pollution free.

The City's Environmental Services Division and Recreation Services Division have partnered once again to offer an extensive two-hour field trip through Stivers Lagoon at no charge. Students are taught about wetlands,

watersheds, ecology, and the San Francisco Bay as they hike along Muskrat creek and stop to collect and test water samples and search for aquatic insects. Park Ranger Sandy Ferreira leads the field trips and shares her 15-plus years of environmental knowledge with participants.

This year, 60 two-hour time slots are available for 3rd grade classes- the target grade level. However, field trips can be modified for up to 5th grade. The field trips are offered at no charge to all public, private and home school students in Fremont.

For more information or to register your class, contact the City's Clean Water Education Program Coordinator Barbara Silva at bsilva@ci.fremont.ca.us or 494-4739. You may also visit the City's website at

www.fremont.gov/Environment/StiversFieldTrips.

Here's what students said about last year's field trips (excerpts from actual thank you notes):

- "I liked peeking at the animals in the creek and testing the creek water. When we looked through the microscopes, it was like having super vision."
- "I really enjoyed testing the temperature and pH (a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a substance) of the water."
- "It was one of my favorite field trips! Thank you."

Creek Cleanup Statistics

Ever wonder how much "stuff" is removed from local creeks? Wonder no more. Over the course of ten creek cleanups from July 2003 to June 2004, City staff and others removed enough material to fill nearly seven garbage trucks to capacity; this equals about 14,000 pounds of material! See the table below for a detailed breakdown:

Material Removed from Creek Cleanups July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004		
Creek Name	# of Participants	Removed (lbs)
Mission Creek	61	1,627
Sabercat Creek	158	2,048
Morrison Creek	13	998
Old Alameda Creek	26	8,617
Agua Fria Creek	6	494
Total	264	13,784

Volunteer Opportunities:


Calling all volunteers! Join the upcoming creek cleanups at Irvington Creek on Saturday, October 9 and Saturday, October 30 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Contact Creek Cleanup Coordinator Val Blakely at vblakely@ci.fremont.ca.us or 494-4577 for more information.



In March 2004, volunteers cleaned up Old Alameda Creek.

Utility Users Tax - Measure V

FAQs



On November 2, 2004, Fremont voters will vote on Measure V which, if passed by a majority of the electorate, will establish a new utility users tax (UUT). Here's a list of questions and answers about the proposed utility users tax.

Q: What is the proposed utility users tax?

A: The November 2, 2004 election will include a ballot measure (Measure V) requesting voters to consider approval of a utility users tax. If approved by the voters:

- It would levy a tax of no more than 6% on the following utility bills: electric, natural gas, wired phone, wireless phone, water, sewer, and cable television (federal regulations currently preclude taxation of satellite television).
- It would authorize the City Council to reduce the tax rate, and to establish exemptions or limited tax rates for categories of taxpayers.
- It would establish a Utility Users Taxpayers Oversight Committee to oversee the City's expenditures of the tax and advise the City Council on tax reductions.

Q: What will it cost?

A: If approved by the voters, the average monthly tax for all of these utilities for a Fremont household is estimated to be \$16 (based on an average monthly utility bill of \$263; some pay more, some pay less). To determine the estimated tax for your household, multiply your utility bills by 6%, or go to the City's website at www.fremont.gov/UtilityUsersTax/UUTCALculator and use the UUT "calculator" to calculate your likely taxes.

Q: What factors led to the City placing the proposed tax on the ballot?

A: The Silicon Valley recession and annual State revenue takeaways of local tax dollars have caused a 20% drop in City revenue over the last three years. In response, the City cut its budget by about 20%, which included the elimination of 20% of the City's workforce (224 positions). One result is that our police and fire staffing levels are much lower than other cities in Alameda and Santa Clara counties to which we are frequently compared.

Q: What would the new tax money be spent on?

A: The proposed tax revenue would be spent on the important city services funded by the General Fund. The City spends 90% of general tax revenue on the basic priorities of police, fire, and maintenance of things like streets and parks. Funds raised from the utility users tax would help restore these and other basic community services.



Q: Where can I find additional information?

A: If you have any questions regarding the proposed utility users tax, you may either:

- Review information on the City's website at www.fremont.gov/CityHall/UtilityUsersTax.
- Contact Budget Officer Jim Becklenberg at 494-4615 or jbecklenberg@ci.fremont.ca.us; 3300 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 5006, Fremont, CA 94537-5006